



Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Martin,

As the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services Office on Disability, it is my honor and responsibility to advocate for the needs of our nation's 54 million people with disabilities. Integral to that service is my commitment to advancing assistive technology that holds the promise to help people with disabilities lead full lives as integrated members of the workforce and their communities.

Recently, I have learned of a new class of technologies that hold such promise for persons with disabilities – Wireless Wideband Microstimulator Devices. These new microstimulators present a never before seen opportunity for persons with partial paralysis resulting from strokes, spinal cord injuries, neuromusculoskeletal disorders, and many other impairments to lead independent lives. This could address the major gaps in functionality of persons with disabilities. There are many advantages over existing technologies, which include: less painful, less susceptible to system-damaging infection, less invasive, no external coil increases reliability and usability, and are medical personnel-efficient.

Because of these benefits, it would be very beneficial for persons with disabilities if such technology, i.e., Wireless Wideband Microstimulator Devices were accessible. I am writing to indicate the importance of these microstimulators in helping our Nation to ensure equal opportunity for all of its citizens, especially persons with disabilities. Wireless Wideband Microstimulators have enormous potential to limit the negative impact of myriad debilitating impairments, and I fully support any spectrum accommodation necessary to expedite the use of Wireless Wideband for devices.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Margaret Giannini", is positioned above the typed name.

Margaret Giannini, MD, FAAP
Director, Office on Disability